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EXPERIENCE FITS JOB

Bush Good Choice For CIA

Confirmation hearings open today in the Senate on the appointment of George Bush to head the Central Intelligence Agency. William Colby is departing from the CIA as Congress completes a searching examination of the past performance of the super-secret agency and begins working on ways to avoid the kind of misdeeds which now mar its record.

President Ford no doubt was thinking about the reform and rebuilding that lies ahead for the CIA when he appointed Mr. Bush, a former congressman, former ambassador to the United Nations and until now the U.S. emissary to Communist China. His integrity, intelligence and sensitivity to international affairs are on the record. Some senators are prepared to raise the question of whether Mr.

Bush is too "political" a personality to head the CIA because he also once served as Republican National Chairman, but the political side of his record can be one of his strengths in heading the CIA at this time.

A dominant problem facing the new director is to establish more public accountability by the CIA, and this entails establishing a new relationship between the agency and the "watchdog" committees of Congress which are responsible for that accountability. Experience in diplomacy, in Congress and in politics make a good combination for the CIA post. From what is on the record about Mr. Bush's qualifications as the confirmation hearings open, we see no reason why his appointment should not be approved.